A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"Every prohibition of individual initiative is a victory for the enemy to exactly the extent that is effective... Not only does it, in itself, represent one more step towards the Slave World, but, except under certain conditions, it sets up a habit of apathetic acquiescence which is exactly what is desired... The first strategy has many times been emphasized – it is to insist that Members of Parliament are representatives not delegates... But the same principle can be carried into every official quarter. Once get the mental attitude well established in oneself that institutions exist only legitimately to serve individuals... It is (also) necessary to face up to the fact of institutionalised Judaeo-Christianity... which is simply Liberal Judaism. At the present time, ecclesiastics... are making every effort in their power to identify the Kingdom of God upon Earth with Jewish Socialism (which is State Capitalism with monopoly control by Finance)... derived from assuming as axiomatic, the tenets of a philosophy systematically inculcated from birth. Against this hypnotic obsession, argument is useless – dehypnotisation is essential."* – C.H. Douglas, ***"The Big Idea"***, 1942

RABBITS FROM TREASURY HATS by Jeremy Lee:

In a surprising (to some) statement, Treasurer Peter Costello has announced that the Budget surplus is twice that expected – $7.5 billion. That is approximately $375 for each man, woman and child in Australia, or $1,500 for each family of four.

Quite coincidently, this unexpected announcement has come at the same time as an approaching federal election – either late this year or, more likely, in the first half of 2004.

The surplus is the excess of taxation revenue over government spending. It is generally agreed that direct and indirect taxation is at a higher level than ever before in Australia's history. Its collection occurs in virtually everything we buy, through Sales Taxes, Excise and GST, as well as income tax, fees, fines, etc. The machinery for its collection is huge and draconian, with heavy penalties for non-compliance. But, as far as the Treasurer is concerned, it is working, and the Budget "outcome" has cash jingling in its pocket

One of the simplest ways to return the money to the people would be in a move like that in the State of Alaska, where oil royalties are distributed without a means test to every citizen over six months old.

The government would simply send a cheque for $375 to every citizen above six months old, with an explanatory note: *"After meeting our budgetary requirements for the year, we have a Budget Surplus left over. As it is really money belonging to the Australian people, we are therefore returning it with thanks. We enclose a cheque for $375 for each member of your household ..."*

An unexpected cheque for struggling families, or for pensioners, or the unemployed, or students striving to get a tertiary education, would lighten many a day.

Another way might be to ask each member of parliament to run a poll through the newspapers in his own electorate: *"We have $7.5 billion in tax money left over, which the Government believes should be returned to the people. Have a say on how this could best be done."*

The people could be given three or four options, with a box to tick, and the results throughout Australia announced nationally.

Apparently, however, Prime Minister Howard has decided on the method he prefers. He would like to see the top marginal tax rate lifted to compensate for bracket creep. This, of course, would benefit a small number with incomes between $60,000 and $70,000.

However, everybody *really* knows what's going to happen. The money will be injected in as a tax cut to be timed to give the best advantage in the coming election.

Thus, the people really hurting in Australia – those with part-time jobs or no jobs at all, and therefore incomes so low they cannot benefit from tax cuts – will, as usual, be the 'forgotten' people who do not benefit from government tax-bribes to any degree.

IMF MAKING THE DECISIONS: With the above in mind, the September 17th Press Release from Senator Len Harris is significant. Under the heading WHO'S PULLING YOUR PURSE STRINGS? It said:

"One Nation Senator Len Harris has accused the Federal Government of pandering to the IMF following speculation that high-income earners will receive tax breaks.

Last year, the IMF directed the Federal Government to lower the marginal tax rate for top income earners. 'Specifically, the IMF instructed the Government to bring the top marginal tax rate down, in line with the corporate tax rate,' Senator Harris said.

'The Government also complied with IMF policy in other areas including tightening of eligibility requirements for social welfare and diminishing the role of the award system in setting wages,' he said.

'The Australian people and even most members of Parliament know little about the IMF. It is extraordinary that the Fund has the ability to dictate Federal Government policy across so many areas,' Senator Harris said.

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'Australia must have its own strategy for economic development. That can't come if every move we make is dictated by the IMF which is not democratically elected by the Australian people', he said.

'If the Government is collecting a surplus of tax revenue, it's time to slow down tax collection. Our unfair and complex tax system should be reformed to provide for tax relief for working people,' Senator Harris said.

'The system should also be simplified and tax loopholes and tax shelters must also be eliminated. Wealthy individuals and corporations must pay their fair share of the tax burden.'

Senator Harris said tax cuts to high-income earners were a backdoor method of slashing federal spending that benefits working people. 'When taxes are cut, revenue to the government falls, leading to an inevitable belt-tightening', he said

With the next IMF report due late this month, Senator Harris said it was time to lift the veil of secrecy surrounding the Fund.

'It is unacceptable for Australia to continue to support the IMF as long as it continues to operate as a secretive, undemocratic institution', he said" *(end of Senator Harris' statement)*

(Those who would like further information can contact Senator Harris at Box 2206, Mareeba, Qld, 4880, [07] 4092 3194 or at www.imf.org)

PROPERTY RIGHTS UNDER SIEGE: The following "Letter-to-the-Editor" by Councillor Bevan O'Regan was dated September 29th, 2003, and gives a picture of what's happening in NSW

"Not only have Draft Regional Vegetation Management Plans been worrying farmers who wish to clear and plough their freehold properties, but the Department of Local Government is now claiming that sections of the Land and Valuation Act will be changed to eliminate "Fee Simple".

"Fee Simple" is any property owner's absolute right to gift, transfer, Will to their heirs and use all that is naturally on and within that property such as the air, water, soil and vegetation.

Last week I attended a Local Government seminar where the removal of Fee Simple was mentioned as a *fait accomplish*.

With the two Wentworth Reports on vegetation and water being discussed, together with C.O.A.G cracking a whip on privatizing water, and now Local Government claiming that the 1916 Land and Valuation Act will be altered because the property rights of land and water have been separated, all rights of property owners are now under siege.

Unfortunately, altering the Act will mean Councils will have to strike a new "differential" rate on land with water but without a dedicated license.

I have been a councillor for 21 years and I believe this is the most blatant attack against property rights I have witnessed.

I am a member of the Constitutional Property Rights Committee (CPRC) and I joined because I believe this may be our last chance to protect our rights.

The CPRC is at present supporting a North Coast farmer who is defending through the Court charges under NOTICE issued against him (July 2002) for clearing native vegetation without consent and that he (under a threat of a million dollar penalty) re-vegetates 3 ha (the area he cleared) after a fire from a public property entered his own Fee Simple land. Already, two days have been taken in the Land and Environment Court, with more to come in November.

Property owners are on the "back foot" in this land of "Oz". - Bevan O'Regan, CPRC)

(Bevan O'Regan can be contacted at: "Moema", Narrabri, NSW, 2390)

SELLING THE SILVER FOR TIN-POT PRICES: Six months ago one of Australia's oldest and potentially richest assets was sold into overseas ownership for a song. Mount Isa Mines sits atop some of the richest silver, lead, copper and other minerals in the world. It has operated for more than a century. Many of the deposits have been discovered but are still untouched.

Robert Gottliebsen, writing in ***The Australian*** (23/9/03) commented:

"Xstrata shareholders who financed the MIM takeover have enjoyed an incredible 50 per cent gain in six months.

"Australians have therefore sold MIM for substantially less than its value in London. While some of the difference reflects the recent share market rises, the vast majority comes because the world sees in MIM a value we did not know existed .....

"It's time for Australian advisers, institutions, directors and commentators to forget defending themselves and face up to the mistake and look at who made it and what can be learned so we don't make the same mistake again. ....'

Australia's mineral sector is the biggest factor in keeping the economy staggering along. Our incredible fortune in having such huge deposits of almost everything is being stolen from beneath us. The world's industrial nations queue up to load their carriers with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of copper, iron ore and coal. The biggest coal-loading complex in the southern hemisphere, at Hay Point in Queensland – is expanding again to cope with the mile-long trains which ply endlessly between our inland mines and the Pacific. The wages go to Australians. But the complex, capable of turning a giant freighter round in 24 hours, is operated by 50 men, who for the most part push buttons. The royalties are pitiful. The profits are taken by those who manufacture the world's steel goods, made with the finest coking coal in the world. So we borrow to buy those steel goods back again, simply adding the bill to our foreign debt.

That's economics Australia – a form of robbery and dispossession which we call globalism.

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